GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1692
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
CHILD LABOUR
DINSHA J. PATEL;KAILASH MEGHWAL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the number of child labourers in the country particularly in Rajasthan and children are being employed to work in hazardous industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the industrial units are not being inspected due to lack of inspectors in the Labour Department;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the trend of employing children in such jobs;

(e) whether the Government have recently made any efforts to identify the major reasons for this social evil; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a) & (b): The 1981 Census recorded the number of child labour to be 13.64 million, while the 1991 Census recorded the number to be 11.28 million. Over the decade, there has been a decline in child labour both in absolute numbers as well as in percentage terms. The State wise position is at Annexure.

As per the estimates of the 55th Round of NSSO survey conducted in 1999-2000, the estimated number of working children in the country is 10.4 million.

(c) & (d): The state governments are responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in all areas except establishments under the control of Central Government or a Railway administration or major port, or a mine or oil field. Regular monitoring is being carried out by the State Governments as well as Central Government regarding enforcement of the provisions of the Act and necessary action is initiated wherever necessary.

(e) to (f): Child Labour is a complex socio- economic problem to be dealtthrough sustained efforts over a period of time. Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in hazardous occupations.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1692 FOR 03.03.03

State-wise Distribution of Working Children According to 1971, 1981 and 1991 Census

	1971	1981	1991
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,627,492	1,951,312	1,661,940
2	Assam	239,349 #	##	327,598
3	Bihar	1,059,359	1,101,764	942,245
4	Gujrat	518,061	616,913	523,585
5	Haryana	137,826	194,189	109,691
6	Himachal Pradesh	71,384	99,624	56,438
7	Jammu and Kashmir	70,489	258,437	##
8	Karnataka	808,719	1,131,530	976,247
9	Kerala	111,801	92,854	34,800
10	Madhya Pradesh	1,112,319	1,698,597	1,352,563
11	Maharashtra	988,357	1,557,756	1,068,418
12	Manipur	16,380	20,217	16,493
13	Meghalaya	30,440	44,916	34,633
14	Nagaland	13,726	16,235	16,476
15	Orissa	492,477	702,293	452,394
16	Punjab	232,774	216,939	142,868
17	Rajasthan	587,389	819,605	774,199

18	Sikkim	15,661	8,561	5,598
19	Tamilnadu	713,305	975,055	578,889
20	Tripura	17,490	24,204	16,478
21	Uttar Pradesh	1,326,726	1,434,675	1,410,086
22	West Bengal	511,443	605,263	711,691
23	A & Nikobar Island	572	1,309	1,265
24	Arunachal Pradesh	17,925	17,950	12,395
25	Chandigarh	1,086	1,986	1,870
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3,102	3,615	4,416
27	Delhi	17,120	25,717	27,351
28	Daman and Diu	7,391	9,378	941
29	Goa		4,656	
30	Lakshadweep	97	56	34
31	Mizoram	###	6,314	16,411
32	Pondicherry	3,725	3,606	2,680
	Total	10,753,985	13,640,870	11,285,349

Includes figures of Mizo district also which then formed part of Assam
Census could not be conducted.
Census figures of 1971 in respect of Mizoram included under Assam.

NB: Figures for 1991 relates to workers of age group 5-14 years.